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First-ever drive-in STM

Moderator asks selectman be removed

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARE – For the first time voters took part in a drive-in town meeting last Saturday morning, parking in spaces in the Ware Junior Senior High School’s lower parking lot and using FM broadcasting through W.A.R.E. Radio, which could be heard in each vehicle’s car. Portable microphones were brought to voters who help up voting cards to designate they wanted to speak. Voters held up yellow cards for yes and red cards for not to be counted as articles were taken up.

Also for the first time, Moderator Kathleen Coloumbe asked that SelectBoard Chairman Keith Kruckas be removed from the meeting after she asked him to stop talking about an audit of town hall services during an article on whether to approve \$99,000 for a financial software package that would coordinate and streamline town services over the next few years.

She told him to stop talking and he responded, “why don’t you make me?” At that point she



Town Clerk Nancy Talbot stands by to help Moderator Kathleen Coloumbe during Saturday’s drive-in Special Town Meeting. A stiff breeze was blowing during the morning.

ordered him removed, and Police Chief Shawn Crevier walked with him to the edge of the parking lot, along with SelectBoard Chairman Alan Whitney and Town Manager Stuart Beckley. At that point town counsel was called, who said as long as Kruckas was no longer creating an issue, he could be allowed to stay in the meeting.

Kruckas returned to the wooden picnic tables outside the school where he had been sitting before beginning to speak.

Counts

One resident, Michael St. Germain, questioned the moderator on the counts for several articles, saying he did not think they

were accurate. He asked her for a specific count and she told him she did not have the specific numbers but she knew the yellow cards for yes outnumbered the red cards for no. He questioned her again and she gave him the same answer.

Please see **STM**, page 3

SelectBoard candidates answer questions

Provided answers on variety of topics

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARE – The four candidates for Ware’s SelectBoard covered many topics Saturday afternoon at a joint Ware Community Television/Ware River News forum, with two incumbents and two new candidates vying for two seats. The Town Election is on Tuesday, April 12, and voting will be at Town Hall.

Belchertown Sentinel Editor Melina Bourdeau asked candidates questions about economic development, a proposed water filtration plant, using the town’s cannabis proceeds to help pay for the plant, how to work with Baystate Health as it closes Mary Lane, what the town’s biggest problem is and why they’re the best candidate. They tended to agree with each other on most of the issues.

All four candidates agreed that a lack of money is the town’s biggest problem. SelectBoard Chairman Alan Whitney said he wants the town to work hard on getting additional grants. “The state can mandate we have bike lanes but they can’t help us have fresh water for the town,” he said referring to the mandated bike

lanes the state called for in the Main Street redesign project.

Fellow incumbent SelectBoard Vice Chairman Keith Kruckas agreed finances were a problem and the town had to make itself a desirable place for businesses.

Caitlin McCarthy, owner of Iron Goat, an art metalsmithing business, and a mom of three, agreed money was an issue and the town needs more businesses. She also said communication needed to improve in town because many people don’t understand what’s going on in town.

Josh Kusnierz, who works at the Veterans Cemetery in Agawam, is on the Planning Board and is the town’s part-time tree warden, said the town needs to find additional creative ideas for revenues.

Water plant

All four candidates said the water filtration needs to be built, which would remove iron and manganese from the drinking water, and they all agree with the idea to use retail cannabis sales taxes, which should bring in \$100,000 a year, to help pay for the plant, which is estimated cost about \$13.3 million.

Voters will take up that issue at an April 24 Special Town Meeting

Please see **FORUM**, page 9

Marijuana microbusiness hosts first outreach meeting

By Paula Ouimette
Staff Writer

HARDWICK – Ralph Rogers, president of Adroit Manufacturing LLC, hosted a community outreach meeting via Zoom on Monday night. After introducing himself, Rogers discussed the adult-use marijuana establishment license he intends to apply for at his proposed marijuana microbusiness at 435 Lower Road, Gilbertville.

About Adroit Manufacturing

Adroit Manufacturing LLC would fall under a Tier 1 license with the Cannabis Control Commission. Tier 1 is the smallest license issued by the CCC and is geared toward giving individuals a lower-cost opportunity to develop a marijuana-based business. Rogers informed the dozen plus people attending the meeting that the license allows for manufacturing of marijuana product, cultivation up to 5,000 square feet and the ability to purchase 2,000 pounds of marijuana to process at the facility.

Cultivation

Rogers said the town of Hardwick does not currently allow cultivation in commercially-zoned properties, so he is not pursuing that avenue right now. Rogers said if a time comes when Hardwick does allow it, he will be looking into indoor cultivation, but at about half of the maximum space allowed under the license. Rogers said the building on the site itself is 5,000 square feet and he would still need at least half of the building for per-

forming extractions to produce his products.

Security measures

Rogers is in the process of drafting a lengthy security plan that is already over 100 pages long. The plan will need to be approved by both the CCC and Hardwick Police Chief James Ayotte. He said the CCC is very stringent when reviewing all aspects of a marijuana business, including the security plan. Rogers said there will be over 20 security cameras inside and outside of the building, and that the building will be securely locked with a vault.

Positive impact

Rogers said that employees of Adroit Manufacturing LLC will be given time off to volunteer in the community for the East Quabbin Land Trust, Paige Memorial Library and others. He said he and his employees will also provide educational opportunities to the community about marijuana. Rogers said, “I love being part of the community and anywhere I have a business I’m going to be giving back to that community.” Rogers is CEO of Rockwerx Climbing Walls, Inc. in his hometown of Barre, and has donated climbing walls and structures to Barre schools and Rice Park.

Community Host Agreement

Town counsel and Rogers are working together to draft a

Please see **HARDWICK**, page 5



The retaining wall at the Ware Dog Park, which will hold 75 pet portraits.

Four-legged friends reign supreme

Portraits of them to grace dog park wall

By Paula Ouimette
Staff Writer

WARE – Workshop13 has gone to the dogs, or at least the dog park that is. Recently, Friends of the Ware Dog Park reached out to artists at Workshop 13 about painting a mural on their large retaining wall inside the Ware Dog Park, located on Pleasant Street next to the municipal parking lot.

The Ware Dog Park opened to the public last August and has become a favorite place for canines and humans alike to play, socialize and exercise. The large, concrete retaining wall spanning the back of the park offers the perfect opportunity for the talented artists at Workshop13 to immortalize our animal friends.

The idea of creating a mural

came from artist Susan Pecora. She created the animal mural that adorns the reception desk at Mill Valley Veterinary Clinic in Belchertown. Pecora, a professional artist for 40 years, enjoys working with watercolor, egg tempera and since the pandemic, oil painting.

She began an art center in the Thorndike Mills and has been with Workshop13 “from the start” alongside artist and founder Roc Goudreau. Pecora said after the Thorndike art center closed, she told Goudreau, “I’ll back you and do whatever you need” when looking for a new location. Goudreau “fell in love” with the former church that is now home to Workshop13. Pecora is also a co-op member of ArtWorks Gallery, an offshoot of Workshop13. She painted the



Opie, owned by artist Susan Pecora, investigates staff writer Paula Ouimette as she interviews Workshop13 artists.

watercolor featured in the logo of the Workshop13 website.

Retired Air Force veteran Amy Morin began taking drawing lessons at Workshop13 when it first opened. Mostly self-taught, she spends countless hours watching videos on YouTube learning new techniques. Morin attended the Vermont Raptor Academy and learned the art of wood sculpting,

Please see **DOG PARK**, page 6

Officials claim Baystate Health is silent

Baystate Health claims town contacts

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARE – As the Department of Public Health information-gathering hearing on closing Mary Lane’s satellite emergency facility on Thursday got closer this week, town officials and state legislators went public with their disappointment and anger over what they say is Baystate Health’s lack of communication.

Baystate Health announced in January it planned to close Mary Lane completely, with the satellite emergency facility and cancer treatment services to end by June. The other services, such as doctors’ practices, are scheduled to close in the next 18 months. This Thursday night, during a three-hour conference call, the Department of Public Health will listen to concerns from area residents and officials about the services ending.

This week State Sen. Anne Gobi, D-Spencer, State

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The Literacy Project deemed exemplary by state DESE

WARE – The Literacy Project, an adult high school equivalency program, underwent this week Program Quality Review administered by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The Literacy Project is an adult education program serving students who need a second chance to earn their high school equivalency diploma, located at the Ware Adult Learning Center, 23 West Main St., in Ware. The Program Quality Review was conducted by the Adult Community Learning Services, the division of DESE that funds adult basic education programs across the state.

The DESE four-member review team held a meeting with the Literacy Project leadership team, and separate meetings with each group including teachers, advisors and students to query them about the work of the program. The team visited each of The Literacy Project’s online zoom classes to observe the classrooms. They reviewed curriculum materials and lesson plans.

The reviewers gave The Literacy Project some initial feedback noting that many aspects of The Literacy Project’s program are “exemplary,” the highest commendation. The DESE review team will submit a formal written report to The Literacy Project in eight to 10 weeks.

Judith Roberts, The Literacy Project’s executive director, notes “we are delighted that DESE recognized the dedication to teaching and learning that everyone at The Literacy Project shares. The success of our students is at the center of everything we do.”

Pedro, a recent graduate from the Ware Literacy Project classroom said “The Literacy Project’s way of teaching is straightforward and efficient. If one applies all the resources and help that this amazing project offers, along with teachers that want to help you in ways that work for you, that’s huge, and makes a difference for all of us who can’t do it in a traditional way, to be able to graduate and have a better, happier life.”

R J Ferullo, site director and

instructor at The Literacy Project Ware Adult Learning Center said, “The Program Quality Review provided the opportunity for Literacy Project staff to examine our efforts together and work with DESE to develop the best possible adult learning program we can provide for our students.”

Margaret Anderson, The Literacy Project Program Director notes, “We started the Program Quality Review process with the intention of using it not as a test to pass or fail, but as an opportunity to grow as a program. And that’s just what we’ve done. We have spent many hours reflecting on what we teach and how we teach. We’ve named and claimed our strengths. We’ve identified and corrected gaps in our practice. And we’ve deepened our understanding of the critical role we each play in helping our students transform their lives through the power of education. We’ve come out of this process even stronger and more competent than when we began, and I’m very proud of the work we’ve done together.”

The Literacy Project has rolling enrollment and is accepting students on an ongoing basis for its online classes.

Since last March, The Literacy Project has distributed 76 laptops as computer scholarships to adult students to allow them to study from home. They have also supplied dozens of calculators, workbooks, notebooks, and novels for classes to read together.

“We know that access to education is more important now than ever for our adult students to obtain jobs with a living wage,” says Roberts.

The Literacy Project is a local nonprofit, funded in part by the Massachusetts Department of Education, Ware Community Development Block Grant, The Community Foundation or Western Mass and The United Way of Hampshire County, as well as individual donations. The Literacy Project has classrooms in Ware, Northampton, Amherst, Greenfield and Orange.

All classes are free and open to the public. For more information visit The Literacy Project online at www.literacy-project.org or call 413-967-9903.

Are You Old News?



Last week's photo was of members of the Dendor Furniture quintet in the Ware LL hoop program. Front, left to right, are Doug Wdowiak, Tom Navin, Chad Kenyon and Bob Dunn. In the back row were Alan Legere, Shawn Mulligan, Chris Deslauriers, Brian Madigan, Pat Cantwell and Coach Michael Finocchio. This photo ran in February of 1983.

Each week the Ware River News digs into its submitted photo archives and selects a people photo to publish. We need your help to help identify those pictured.

Email your answers by Monday at noon to ekennedy@turley.com.

Please send the names of anyone you recognize in this week's photo, with your full name, to ekennedy@turley.com.

The Centered Place offers student scholarship

WARREN – The Centered Place Yoga Studio of Warren will reward a deserving student of Quaboag Regional High School a scholarship of over \$1,000. The Centered Place aims to help support a student who wants to pursue a higher education so they can have a greater positive impact in the local community and world. The student will be selected based on financial need, the student’s activity in the school and community, and their own stated intentions.

The Centered Place regularly donates to local charities and causes. Toward the end of 2020, a guidance counselor at Quaboag Regional, Eric Urban, asked The Centered Place if it would be willing to offer a scholarship to one of the seniors. “We jumped at the opportunity,” recalls Phil Milgrom,

co-director of the studio. “The way the political climate has been, and with all the social unrest as well as the anxiety and tragedy from the pandemic, we wanted to help in any way we could.”

He and Nancy Nowak, the other co-director and founder of The Centered Place, see this as an opportunity to make a difference. “Young people are our future. How this country ends up, and the whole planet by that matter, hinges today on the younger generation mostly” he said. “We will choose a student who is highly motivated and cares deeply about the future.”

To become a candidate for the scholarship, students are required to fill out an application available at the school, provide three letters of recommendation and write an essay that answers the following questions:

What change the student would like to make in the world?

How would the student make that change?

What obstacles might be encountered along the way?

What major obstacle has the student overcome in his or her life and how will this help that student succeed?

The Centered Place is contributing \$250 toward the scholarship while the rest is being raised by clients and friends of the studio. A fundraiser is ongoing. To contribute, you can send a check to The Centered Place, P.O. Box 1210, Warren MA 01083-1210 (write “For QRHS Scholarship” on the memo line).

QRHS serves students from Warren and many other towns in the area including West Brookfield, Ware, Palmer, Southbridge, Monson and New Braintree.

Anyone with questions may contact Milgrom at 413 436-7374.

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Explore the Quabbin virtually

by Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

PALMER – Everything you want to know about the Quabbin, including spots you'll want to visit this spring and summer, will be presented by New York Times bestselling author Michael Tougias, courtesy of the Palmer Public Library on April 6.

Tougias is your guide for the program, which shares the title of his book "Quabbin: A History and Explorers Guide." He will dis-

cuss and showcase photos of the "lost towns" flooded to create the Quabbin, as well as it is construction of the massive reservoir and how it works today.

Suggestions for day trips will also be offered. Palmer Library staff, including Adult Services Librarian Amy Golenski, are also excited for Tougias's presentation.

"We're looking forward to having Michael discuss his book about the Quabbin," Golenski said. "He'll highlight some history and also share some favorite spots for

visitors to enjoy as the weather gets warmer."

Tougias also plans to talk about his autobiographical book, "The Waters Between Us," a story about a boy, his father and the healing power of nature.

"In the early part of the book, there's a lot of laugh out loud moments because of the trouble I get in," Tougias said. "The story morphs into how we had this family tragedy, which drew my father

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STM from page 1

114 Main St.

Special Town Meeting voters took up 20 articles including approval of spending \$400,000, if necessary, to demolish 114 Main St., which was deemed unsafe last year and ordered pulled down. The owner was told to pull it down by Oct. 1 of last year, which did not happen.

Whitney said the Main Street redesign project was being jeopardized by the building, which MassDOT and the project construction company, Ludlow Construction, are concerned could fall down during heavy roadwork due to its condition. They have told the town they will do the rest of the project, but if the build isn't down, they will not do heavy paving in front of it.

Whitney told voters that the owner is an LLC corporation, and its entire assets are the building, and the town will work to hold the owner responsible but this gives the town the option to pull the building down. Then the town will hold the owner responsible, if necessary, through the courts.

Resident Bill Jackson urged the town to seek federal and state money to pull the building down. "You've got to use something besides our own taxpayer money," he said. Beckley said there was a \$300,000 earmark in a state bill that had already passed, although the town had not received the money yet.

Resident David Moriarty said it should come down, but it should be the responsibility of the owner, at which point many people began honking their horns, which the moderator ordered stopped as it disrupted town business.

Catherine Cascio questioned whether it would set a legal precedent by pulling down the building, but Whitney said it would not as other unsafe buildings are not holding up an important project.

Software package

Voters also approved \$99,191.89 for an integrated financial software package to make the running of town financial services more efficient for the town and residents, according to Treasurer Tracy Meehan. The money will come from the sale of town property. The town already received a grant for \$149,000 toward the package.

This was the topic Kruckas was



Left to right are SelectBoard members Tom Barnes, Keith Kruckas and Alan Whitney before the STM began.

speaking on when the moderator asked he be removed. He was urging voters that the financial audit by an independent auditor, which the SelectBoard voted should be completed this year on Town Hall services, be done before the software package is purchased and installed. The money for the audit will likely come up at the Annual Town Meeting in a few months.

Amending 2021 budget

Voters also approved \$276,100 from free cash and release of the overlay to go toward 18 different different line items in this year's budget. They included \$50,000 for legal services, \$27,000 for a police academy for a newly-hired police officer and \$40,000 for a hot water replacement at the Senior Center.

Also approved was placing \$245,000 into the trust fund to pay for retired employee benefits, putting \$81,750 in the Stabilization Fund and the same amount in the Capital Stabilization Fund.

Residents questioned why additional monies were being added to this year's budget, and Beckley said the budget was very conservative when it was developed last year during the beginning of COVID-19. He said there were a lot unknowns at the time, but the town was in decent financial shape now.

Voters approved adopting state law that will streamline the process for the town treasurer to deal with abandoned funds

Capital items

A front-end loader with a backhoe for \$42,000 and a pickup truck for \$32,000 were ultimately approved for the School Department but not before there was some disagreement about them.

Some voters, such as Jack Cascio, wanted to know why the items were not in the School Department budget instead. School Committee Chairperson Christopher Desjardins said the items were needed and the School Department's budget could not absorb the cost. He also pointed out the town and school budgets are all taxpayer money to pay for the needs of the town, which includes the schools.

At that point Whitney said, "the town is not a slush fund for the School Department. We all have to live within a budget."

Voters also approved a four-wheel drive water service truck \$51,000, \$7,500 for automatic water gate valve operators and telescopic valve key, \$17,000 for an air compressor for the Water Division and the Department of Public Works, \$68,000 for a Parks Department truck, \$60,000 for a new police vehicle to replace an old one that has been auctioned off, \$30,000 to remove wood and brush at the town-owned former Banas farm property and \$50,000 to remove hazardous public shade trees.

Also approved, by a two thirds vote, were amendments to the town's zoning bylaws that added definitions of freight and truck terminals, campgrounds, estate lots, the town line and structures.

Voters also agreed to donate \$2,000 to the Brookfield Institute, which works to help veterans and their families.

Other items

Hardwick Candidate Statements

Kenan P. Young Hardwick Selectman and Sewer Commissioner candidate

I am running for re-election to the Board of Selectman and Sewer Commissioners for the town of Hardwick. I have served on the Select Board for 10 years and several years as chairman. In addition, I have served on the sewer Commission for eight years, several of which in the capacity of chairman. I have put in countless hours of my time educating myself on municipal governance with a particular focus on Hardwick matters.

While in office, significant issues, of the town have been brought to the forefront and shared with the public. These issues (financial management, massive infrastructure (sewer) needs, administrative consent orders, economic development) although separate each has an impact on the other issues and require action in tandem of each other.

I have been instrumental in turning these issues around and obtaining the tools necessary for the Town to chart its course away from receivership/bankruptcy, but to lay a foundation on which the Town can realize success in conscientious economic growth and financial stability. To continue the current track forward, the people should expect and hold accountable all candidates that are chosen to fill the elected positions in Hardwick. The taxpayers, sewer users and residents can expect that I will continue to contribute approximately 15/20 hours per week and more if needed on their behalf. In addition, the voters should be assured that the candidate elect represents the community in the best interest of the Town without bias or special interest.

I have represented Gilbertville and Wheelwright while navigating the sewer issues. Although, it is not the most comfortable position to be in, it is the stance that I have maintained and will continue to do so to see that the upgrades necessary are completed and the financial aspects are fair and equitable for everyone using the Town's sewer systems.

I have no financial or other-wise relationship with Eagle Hill School other than to say the institution is state of the art and provides a great education. However, recognizing the school does not affect nor cloud my decision making when it comes to the best interest of the people, an important fact when considering what is at stake for Gilbertville and Wheelwright's future. Turning this around takes commitment and someone that is not concerned about rubbing elbows or receiving personal gain, but rather, taking the concerns of the entire community and acting upon them. The oath of office is one that should be taken without personal agendas or favors to be sought. It's about doing what is right by the community as a whole. In this situation, it is extremely important that the elected official has the backbone and intent to stand up for the people. I have and will continue to do so if re-elected.

There are many solutions currently in motion before the Board of Selectmen and Sewer Commissioners. Look, the issues did not happen overnight, they have been culminating for many years. It is a long road to financial stability and growth, but if we continue the work that is being done the Town can and will prosper. I have the background knowledge and experience along with a solid relationship with federal and state agencies that are currently involved in each stage of pulling through the crises at hand. I am willing to continue working hard for the people and will be honored to do so and get this done.

Reflecting upon the last 10 years of public service, it took me a good three to four years before I had a true sense of the responsibilities of a Selectman. At that point I realized that it took far more hours than just attending a couple of meetings per month to do the job effectively, giving it justice.

On a closing note...whether you decide to vote for me or not, I urge you to become active in reshaping the future of your town. The Town is at a critical pivot point and it will take your persistence and support to mend the past, unite with your neighbors and exist as a strong community.

Thank you, Kenan P. Young

Robert Ruggles Hardwick Selectman candidate

My name is Robert "Hook" Ruggles and I am proud to announce my candidacy for Selectman and Sewer Commissioner.



I have lived in Hardwick for 45 years and have chosen to raise my family here in our beautiful town. I graduated from Quabbin Regional High School and went on to Nichols College, where I obtained a bachelor of science degree with a major in accounting. I have served in the past on the Town of Hardwick Finance Committee for nine years, and I have also served on the Sewer Study Committee. From my experience on these committees, I've learned some great insight into the needs of this community. Although my academic degree is in accounting, my professional career is within construction. I am presently employed by David G. Roach & Sons as a Superintendent. My present duties require me to manage and construct public works projects within the state of Massachusetts. My job requires providing the highest quality of workmanship within specific federal, state, and local guidelines.

I am running for Selectman and Sewer Commissioner because I am a firm believer in transparent and cooperative local government. I am looking for an opportunity to represent the people of Hardwick and the fiscal needs of the town. Due to my background in construction, I have a strong understanding of current and future improvement projects within the community. I will take into consideration the viewpoints of all, and listen to all stakeholders before making decisions. I will serve with fairness while protecting our town's best interests.

If elected, my priorities would be the financial stability of Hardwick, the repair of the current sewer treatment facilities, maintaining fair and equitable sewer rates, repair and maintenance of existing community infrastructures, encouraging community involvement, support of local municipal departments, and the need for communication, cooperation, and transparency within the municipal boards.

I love this town, and its proud history, and I would be honored to have an opportunity to serve the residents of this community. I humbly ask you to consider and vote for me as Selectman and Sewer Commissioner on April 12.

Build a legacy at the Warren Historical Commission

WARREN – Collectors and readers of Warren history admire the work of those who've gone before. The way they built their houses and helped develop the town, the old hotels and taverns, schools, banks and town halls. We've collected photographs, advertising pieces, historical accounts and artifacts. All these items were created by Warren people who were living and working here. It is their legacy. But now

what will we leave behind?

Those who serve on the Warren Historical Commission can contribute their knowledge and efforts and leave their mark on the town records. Anyone who would like to create their legacy for future generations to admire should contact the Warren Selectmen and ask to be appointed to the Warren Historical Commission. Or, drop a line tosgbuck37@verizon.net to inquire for more information.

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GUEST COLUMN

Twenty-three miles of ‘fun’

Saving the best – and worst – for last hike of winter

By Julie Midura
Correspondent

When Tom and I lost our minds and decided to attempt to climb all 48 New Hampshire 4,000-foot mountains in winter, the Zealand/Bonds traverse was the one that made me lose sleep at night.

How on Earth would we be able to pull off that little miracle? Not that we’re “old” by any means – well, one of us isn’t anyway – but this is the Bonds we’re talking about! What kind of demented couple, one of whom is a senior citizen, decides it would be fun to hike 23.2 miles over five, 4,000-foot mountains in a single day in the dead of winter?! And more importantly – why?

Well, the answer is pretty obvious. We want to earn that cute little round patch that we get to sew onto our backpack once we complete them all. But in all seriousness, this crazy adventure has allowed Tom and I to move beyond our comfort zone and to challenge ourselves in ways we never dreamed possible.

So on the final Saturday of winter, we hiked what has been our most challenging hike so far – the Zealand/Bonds traverse. These mountains are in the heart of the 45,000-acre Pemigewasset Wilderness. The Bonds are among the most remote of the 4,000 footers, and as such, every trail that reaches their summits is a long and arduous one.

When we originally planned this hike, we envisioned sunny skies, temps in the 30s, minimal wind, and a solidly packed trail. What we actually encountered was nothing of the sort. The forecast called for wind chill temps in the negative 20s and sustained winds in the 35 mph range with gusts up to 50 mph.

Tom and I know our limits regarding wind speed and temperature and as such; We’re

unwilling to take the risks that we were willing to take when we were younger. What can I say, it comes with age. Something called self-preservation.

We asked ourselves if it would be worth the potential suffering just to bag several peaks. After all, we began this quest to have fun and to challenge ourselves, not as a test to determine how much misery we could withstand. So we decided to go in spite of the wind chills predictions with the caveat that we would turn back if the conditions were too extreme to continue.

Snow was falling steadily and the wind was howling when we stepped out of our car near Zealand Road at 4:30 a.m. One of the drawbacks of winter hiking is that several of the mountains require a road walk just to get to the trailhead because some of the roads are not maintained in winter. On this particular hike, we needed to walk 3.7 miles on the road just to reach the trailhead.

We were able to wear micro-spikes on our feet for the road walk, but switched to snowshoes once we reached Zealand trail. The snow continued to fall, so we were forced to break trail through fresh snow that was anywhere between three inches to over a foot deep. Breaking trail is exhausting work, so Tom and I took turns taking the lead position.

Once we were above tree line, the combination of fresh snow and fierce wind erased all signs of the trail. We spent valuable time trying to find the path that is usually very obvious on a summer day. Based on the less than ideal conditions, we began to wonder if we’d have the stamina to complete the entire traverse, or if we’d need to turn back after reaching Zealand Mountain – our first mountain of the day.

But alas, there is a God, because not only did the sun finally make an appearance, but about a half mile before we reached Zealand Mountain, two angels appeared from behind us – and they were wearing snowshoes! We stepped aside, enormously relieved to have



Julie and Tom on the summit of Mt. Bond, their 44th winter ascent.

Courtesy photo

someone in front of us breaking out the trail. We reached Mt. Zealand shortly after, then continued on.

The entire traverse is a blend of above treeline exposure intermixed with hiking in the shelter of the trees. When we reached the alpine zone on the shoulder of Mt. Guyot, we experienced the full onslaught of nature’s fury as the wind roared all around us. I braced myself a few times with my trekking poles to avoid being knocked off balance. If the hike had required several miles of hiking above treeline, we couldn’t have endured the strength of the wind, but knowing that we would periodically escape its wrath by hiking into the protection of the trees made it tolerable.

We hiked up West Bond next, followed by Mt. Bond. It was 3:30 p.m. when we reached Bondcliff – our final peak of the day. We had been hiking almost non-stop for the past 11 hours. As elated as we were to be standing on our final mountain of the day, we knew that

we still had nine miles to go to get to our car. Thankfully, Bondcliff Trail was well packed out, so we were able to remove our heavy snowshoes and wear our spikes for the descent.

As we strapped our snowshoes onto our packs, I groaned under the added weight on my back. However, heavier packs mean lighter feet. Without heavy snowshoes on our feet, we practically flew down the mountain.

We arrived at the bridge that marks the end of the hike just as I was certain that I couldn’t take one more step. My legs were propelling me forward only out of sheer necessity. We crossed the bridge that leads to the parking lot at 7:30 p.m. – 15 hours from the time we started.

We did it! Twenty-three miles, five mountains, 15 hours. It’s amazing what the mind and body can do when the heart leads the way.

Peace, and hike on!
Julie Midura is a resident of Ludlow.

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Will inheritance money affect my Social Security?

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I will turn 66 this year and am considering claiming my Social Security. I have already applied for Medicare. My parents passed on several years ago, and the estate will probably settle this year. I would like to know if my inheritance money will have any effect on my Social Security benefits. If so, how? *Signed: Wondering Heir*

Dear Wondering: No, your inheritance money from your parents’ estate will not affect your gross Social Security benefit in any way. Your monthly Social Security benefit is based solely on your lifetime earnings record from working, and income from other sources is not counted when computing your Social Security benefit amount. But if you claim your benefits and have your Medicare Part B premium deducted from your Social Security payment, it’s possible your inheritance could affect your Medicare Part B premium amount, thus lowering your net Social Security payment.

Most Medicare beneficiaries pay a standard premium of \$148.50 per month (2021 amount) for Part B, which is coverage for doctors and other outpatient services. But there is also a special provision known as “IRMAA” (Income Related Medicare Adjustment Amount) which adds a supplemental amount to the standard Part B premium if your “provisional income” from all sources exceeds certain levels. Your “provisional income” would include income from all sources, including any money you receive from an inheritance, any tax-advantaged investment withdrawals, tax-free interest, and half of the Social Security benefits you received during the tax year. The name for this is your “Modified Adjusted Gross Income” (MAGI), and the clip levels which cause IRMAA to affect your Medicare premium are different depending on your IRS filing status.

If you file your income tax as “married/jointly” and your MAGI is over \$176,000, then IRMAA will apply and you’ll pay a higher Medicare premium thus reducing your net Social Security payment (if you file as a single, the clip level is \$88,000). IRMAA can cause your Part B premium to go to anywhere from \$208 to \$505 per month, depending upon how high your MAGI is. Note that your Medicare premium for the current year is determined by your MAGI from two years prior, so if that inheritance money is reported on your 2021 income tax return, it would be your 2023 Medicare premium amount that would be affected. And the higher Medicare premium would self-adjust back to a lower level if MAGI for subsequent years are below the IRMAA level.

The other way your inheritance might

affect you is through income taxes on your Social Security benefits. If your MAGI exceeds \$32,000 filing as married/jointly (\$25,000 if single), then 50% of your Social Security benefits will become part of your taxable income. Or if your MAGI is more than \$44,000 filing as married/jointly (\$34,000 if single), then up to 85% of your Social Security benefits for the tax year will become part of your taxable income at your standard IRS tax rate.

The bottom line is this: Your gross monthly Social Security benefit amount will not be affected by your inheritance, but if your inheritance increases your Medicare Part B premium your net SS benefit will be temporarily lower. And the inheritance may also influence how much of your Social Security benefits are subjected to income tax.

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Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

The truth about peanuts

Well, they certainly have a holiday for everything these days. Recently, when doing some research on an topic completely unrelated to horticulture, I learned that April 2 is National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day. Now I enjoy a good PB & J sandwich, and PB & J stood for the initials Paul, (ro)Berta and Jen back in my college days, but really, a holiday? Regardless, let’s have some fun and take a look at half of this holiday fav from a horticulture perspective.

I had a childhood friend who actually grew peanuts here in the northeast. It was really neat to dig them up and eat them right from her garden! Who even knew they grew underground? I am dating myself when I say that all the hullabaloo was partly because we, at the time, had president by the name of Jimmy Carter whose family was in the business of growing peanuts. Why don’t you take a trip down Memory Lane with me as I look back on peanut culture, Ware-style!

If my memory serves me correctly, Mrs. Haley received fresh, raw peanuts still in their shell through a mail-order company. She carefully shelled them and planted them about a six inches apart from one another in her sunny garden after the danger of frost had passed. The key to growing peanuts is providing loose, crumbly soil. It’s interesting that the plants flower above ground, but just as the petals of the flower fall away, stalks below the ovary of the flower called “pegs” lengthen, causing the stem to fall to the ground. When they fall, the pegs make their way into the soil and form the peanut. It’s suggested that once the plants reach about six inches tall, a gentle cultivation should be performed to make it easier for the pegs to penetrate the earth. After they have

done so, hilling as you would potatoes is beneficial, as is providing a loose mulch such as chopped leaves, straw or the like to keep the area friable and moist.

You’ll know it’s time to harvest when the plant yellows; don’t wait too long after this point or the peanuts may break from the plant, making harvest more difficult. Carefully unearth the whole plant with a shovel, shake away as much soil as you can and dry upside down out of the weather. An attic, barn or other well-ventilated area is ideal for this purpose. Peanuts can be shelled and enjoyed raw, or roasted in or out of the shell at 350 degrees for 20 minutes. High in protein and fat, and various healthy nutrients, peanuts are a staple in the diets of many cultures.

You may find it interesting to learn that peanuts are not really a nut at all, but a legume. In fact, young plants will be very reminiscent of pea seedlings. They are thought to have originated in South America over three thousand years ago. Valued then as both a food source and status symbol, peanuts were even used as currency for a time. That’s humorous, considering the phrase “working for peanuts” implies quite the opposite status!

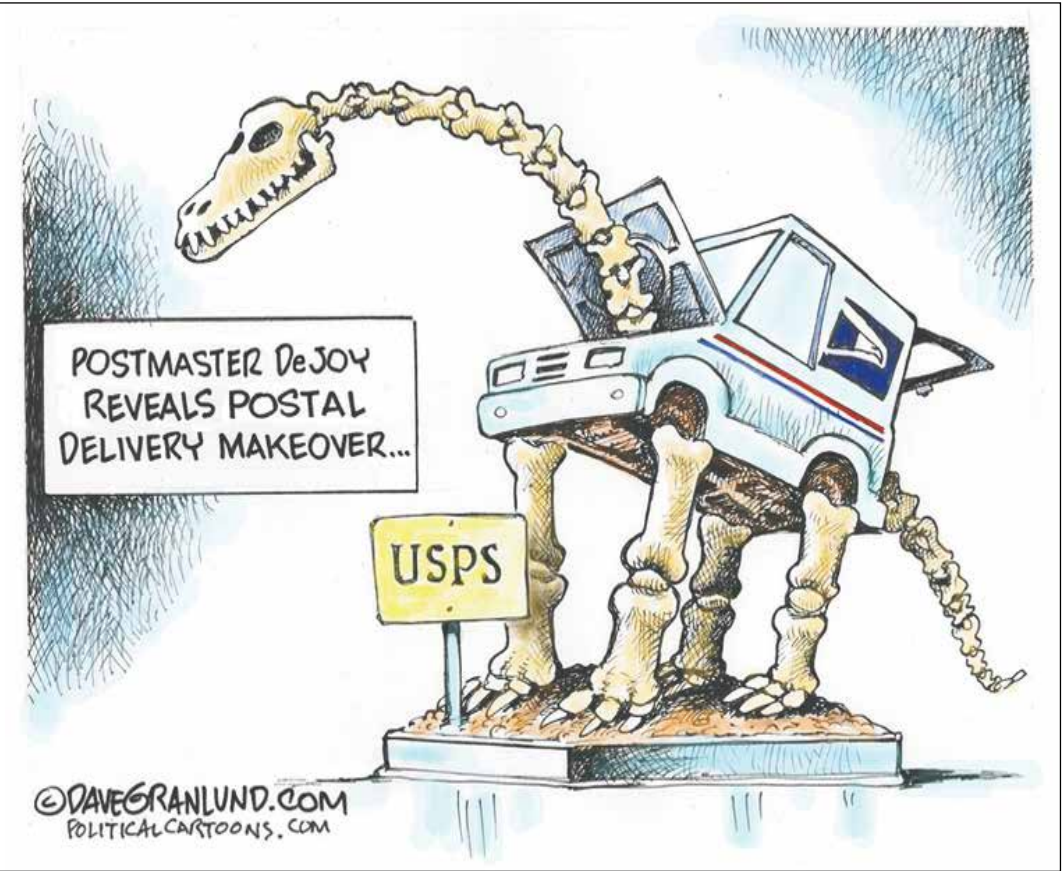
Peanuts are a long season crop, requiring about 120 days to mature. Many northern gardeners pre-start them indoors to get a jump on the growing season using a variety such as Early Spanish that matures earlier than other types.

Here’s what the experts recommend: Shell the fresh peanuts carefully, keeping the thin papery covering intact. Place three “seeds” in a four-inch pot filled two-thirds of the way up with moist potting soil. Add the remaining soil and place in a warm location until they sprout. Provide decent light and plant outside after the danger of frost has passed and proceeding as recommended above. Don’t over fertilize in either case or you will get lots of foliage and few peanuts.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.



Roberta McQuaid



WARE RIVER NEWS

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Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

Laundromats reopen, remain family business

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARE – Coin Laundry, with two laundromats in town, will reopen on April 5, under new ownership as the Madigan family has sold their family business to the Martins family. One laundromat is in the Big Y Plaza on West Street and the second one is on West Main Street.

Jorge Martins, who bought the business with his family, recently got together at the West Street laundromat with the Madigans, including Shannon Madigan, who helped her brother, Sean, run the laundromats, and her mother, Patricia Madigan, who also helped him. After her brother died in March 2020, Madigan said the laundromats closed as her brother's estate went through probate.

Patricia McCarthy Madigan worked at the laundromats, which were first owned by her parents, and then by her for years. Shannon

Madigan said she remembers working in the Big Y Plaza laundromat and that a great group of people have been customers over the years.

"I know he's going to do well, people have been asking on Facebook for the last year when they would reopen, and I've been telling them it's going to happen," said Shannon Madigan. Sure enough, people peered in the windows with interest as the group met in the laundromat.

Martins is a local businessman, owning the Palmer Package Store, one of the first package stores in the area, and formerly owned a pizzeria for years before selling out to his partner.

"I opened a pizzeria when I was 23," he said, as looked around for other business ventures. He decided a liquor store would fit the bill, and when Palmer Package Store came up for sale, he and his family bought it. They've been running it ever since.



Left to right are Patricia Madigan, Shannon Madigan and Jorge Martins at the Coin Laundry in the Big Y Plaza. Martins has bought this laundromat and the one West Main Street from the Madigans.



A view of the inside of the Coin Laundry at the Big Y Plaza, now owned by Jorge Martins and his family.



Patricia Madigan with her father, Robert McCarthy, when the laundromat in the Big Y Plaza opened in the 1950s. She owned it for years before son, Sean, took over the operation of the laundromats.

It was his dentist who got him thinking about laundromats. "He kept telling me all about his sons, who ran laundromats in Boston, and how well they did," he said. At first he was going to build a new one, but the site he wanted didn't work out.

He said he and his wife had come out to Mexicali in Ware to have dinner one night, and afterward they looked through the windows of the closed Coin Laundry before heading home.

He had worked with Realtor Dorinda O'Keefe-Shea when he considered building one, and she got in touch with him when the Coin Laundry business came up for sale earlier this year.

"I told my wife, 'I bet it's going to be the one we saw in Ware,'" he said. "Sure enough, it was. When she sent me the directions I just laughed."

While he has almost no experience doing laundry, he said he is sure his wife will be schooling him along the way. She's already explained to him that Bounce is not a soap, it's a dryer sheet, he laughed.

Patricia Madigan had advice for him too – always have a spare washing machine on hand so you

can repair the one breaks down, have a place where you can do the repairs yourself and make sure there is a repair person lined up. Shannon Madigan added, "don't try to repair the gas dryers yourself."

Patricia Madigan remembered all the great people over the years, customers and employees, and the changes over the years. "The washers used to be pink when we started, that color was really popular," she said. "And then for a time they were gold." She said she used to offer free coffee to customers, and sometimes customers would bring her coffee. Shannon Madigan agreed that almost all the people were great.

Martins said he is looking forward to it and already had a photo of his young daughter vacuuming the rug in front of the dryers when the family came by to do some work a few days before..

"I'm really looking forward to opening and meeting everyone," he said.

People are really looking forward to the landromats reopening,

I think he's going to do very well," said O'Keefe-Shea.



Jorge Martins, back row, left, with his brother, Paul, next to him, and their parents, Maria and Carlos Martins, in front of them, at the Coin Laundry at the Big Y Plaza.

HARDWICK from page 1

Community Host Agreement that will be presented to the Board of Selectmen for review.

Odor control

Rogers said that odor control would not be an issue as he is not cultivating marijuana. He said if cultivation is allowed in the future, he would have charcoal scrubbing and ozone remediation that would remove marijuana odors.

Traffic concerns

The proposed microbusiness is a wholesale site with no more than 10 employees, so Rogers said traffic would not be an issue. Delivery trucks would frequent the site about two times a month.

Proximity to school

Rogers said the building is over 700 feet from the property line and the town requires a minimum of 500 feet.

Concerns from abutters

Harry Comerford, Chairman of the Planning Board said that Rogers has done all the board has asked him to do, and has already addressed their concerns about odor and lighting. Eric Volheim, also of the Planning Board, asked Rogers if he had received any feedback from abutters to the proposed site.

Joanne Wypych, one of the abutters to 435 Lower Road, was on the Zoom call and asked if her property value would be affected by the microbusiness. Rogers said he has looked at data from other states that have marijuana microbusinesses, and there is no indication that property values decrease for abutters. Rogers said there would not be any signage or other indication that the building housed a marijuana establishment. Rogers said, "no one would know what I was doing there unless I told them."

Volheim asked Rogers if he owned any other marijuana businesses. Rogers said he is a consultant for the largest outdoor cultivation in Massachusetts and has his own CBD brand, which is not the same as marijuana and is sold over the counter in many retail stores. Rogers said he "has a lot of understanding and experience in the industry, but no ownership."

Wypych asked how the town would benefit financially from Adroit Manufacturing LLC. Rogers said he is negotiating the financials with the town now for the CHA, but it is hard to put a dollar value on his business since it is only "on a spreadsheet right now." Rogers said he will also give Hardwick residents the first chance when seeking employees to staff his business.

Kathie Peyev, daughter of abutter Joan Morelli, said that her mother has several concerns about the proposed site and has sent Rogers a letter. Rogers said he did not receive the letter yet, but was willing to talk to Peyev or Morelli at their convenience to discuss the concerns. Peyev asked if this

was the only site Rogers was considering for his business and he said, "this is the only site currently." Peyev said Rogers' plans for future cultivation are something her mother is worried about as she is directly behind the site.

Tim Morrell, director on the board at Hardwick Farmers Co-op, across the street from the proposed site, asked what chemicals would be used or stored there to process the marijuana. Rogers said he will be using water and ethanol to do extractions and that all biomass, which is used marijuana, would be rendered "unfunctional" by mixing it with sawdust or coffee grounds. Morrell asked if waste from the site would be minimal and if traffic would be impeded. Rogers said there would be little waste, and trucks would only be arriving for deliveries a couple of times a month.

Rogers thanked those present for the opportunity to bring business into Hardwick and encouraged anyone with concerns to contact him. One resident said she initially had concerns about a marijuana establishment in town but feels that Rogers will bring benefit to the town. "I believe he can run a successful business that can impact the town positively," she said.

QUABBIN from page 3

(Arthur Tougias) and I closer together and really made me realize what an exceptional person he was. My sister (Lynn Tougias) was in a terrible car accident and for the next 30 years, he took care of her every day, all through the night after he got home from work."

The goal Tougias is hoping to accomplish is not only helping attendees learn more about the Quabbin, but also about how his story helped him understand the healing power of nature and the importance of family.

"It's really an uplifting story, because of my father," Tougias said.

"For most people, they could never take care of (Lynn), and not become bitter and withdrawn. He did not. With my mom (Jerri Tougias), they figured things out. I figured, 'oh boy, this will be the end and I'll never see them again, this will just wear him down,' but his response was remarkable. It was a great lesson for me; when bad times come, you can make them so much better by the response."

This event is free, but registration is required. Learn more about Tougias, author of more than 30 books, and register at palmerlibrary.org/events/. For more information about Tougias and his works, go to michaelougias.com/books.

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HOSPITAL from page 1

Rep. Todd Smola, R-Warren, SelectBoard Chairman Alan Whitney and Town Manager Stuart Beckley all expressed unhappiness with what they say is a lack of communication about the process and a request to meet with them. Ware Fire Chief Christopher Gagnon also said Baystate officials have been slow to respond as he tries to plan for a future without an emergency services facility in town.

Whitney and Smola said a letter requesting a meeting with Ware officials and state legislators about the process, and a second letter from state legislators and local officials asking Baystate Health to postpone the closure of Mary Lane's emergency services at Mary Lane for a year, have been met with no response.

Smola described the lack of communication as "radio silence" and Whitney described it as "just crickets."

Baystate Health Eastern Region President Molly Gray said she

was also very disappointed with the reaction by state legislators and local officials, and their characterization of the company's communication.

"This is a surprise to me," she said. "Stuart (Beckley) and I have been talking back and forth and we have a date set up for a meeting. I'm disappointed it's playing out like this."

She also said Baystate officials have offered to give a tour of the hospital building to town officials and state legislators, although there are COVID-19 restrictions. She said the company would be able to work around that.

Gray also said it's been "very hectic" throughout the company as the number of COVID-19 patients in its hospitals have shot up to last April's numbers. "That's very alarming," she said.

Communication

Smola was blunt about how he sees Baystate Health's lack of communication. "For us the real unfortunate part has been that first they spring this closure on all of us, and

once it was announced there has been no regular communication to talk about the community and what is going to happen," he said.

"The people of Ware and the surrounding area have supporting this institution for decades. They say they want to be good neighbors and support the community, but sure doesn't seem it since this was announced. This is a slap in the face to the people."

Smola also questioned Baystate's data about the lack of people using Mary Lane's emergency services, and said it doesn't seem to match up with the town's data about ambulance runs. "The DPH will be looking at the data – they're data-driven and they'll be asking, 'how are you coming up with this data?'" he said. "We've asked them for their data but we haven't gotten it. Something doesn't correlate."

"They've been terrible," Gobi said. "I'll making it loud and clear how non-communicative they've been at the hearing. It's terrible how the community is being treated."

He is particularly unhappy about their lack of response about a request to postpone Mary Lane's emergency services closure.

Also, the health care company has been asked to detail the \$5 million in issues that need to be addressed in the building, but nothing has been forthcoming, she said.

"They don't care about Ware period," said Whitney, pointing to what he said has been no communication over postponing the closure of emergency services at Mary Lane, having a meeting with Baystate Health officials, a detailing of the \$5 million in work the hospital building needs, and for Baystate to take a look at the Route 32 Three Mile Bridge, which will be rebuilt starting in the fall. Whitney said he wants to know how Baystate is going to help Ware and other towns get to Wing Memorial in Palmer in a timely fashion with all the work that will be going on. He said he wants to know how Baystate will guarantee healthcare for Ware residents.

"I'm concerned and I'm angry, and I want them to communicate

with us," he said.

Beckley agreed with Whitney and the state legislators that Baystate needs to be more responsive in communicating with the town.

Slow response

Ware Fire Chief Christopher Gagnon said he has been frustrated with the slowness with which Baystate has responded to the town's need to plan, particularly his department as it works to figure out how to provide emergency services with no emergency facility in town. Although he said there is a meeting coming up soon in the next few weeks with Baystate officials.

"We're certainly not the first department to provide emergency services without an emergency services facility in town, but it's going to entirely change the way we do things." Instead of 30 to 40-minute runs they will double as they head out to Wing Memorial in Palmer, which is nine miles away, or to Springfield.

He is also concerned how much time will be added to runs when

work begins on the Three Mile Bridge.

Gagnon would like to see a year's postponement of the closure of Mary Lane's emergency services. "Anything short of a postponement is going to have on dramatic effect on our services," he said. Gagnon has said overtime hours, additional wear and tear on vehicles and staffing will all be issues the town will be dealing with when the closure takes place.

"They just dropped it on us and we have to react to it and come up with a plan," he said. Baystate Health should have given the town at least a year's notice so it would have enough time to develop a complete plan.

Gray said she understands the concerns of officials and state legislators and the company plans to work with the town as they have said they would from the time they announced the closure.

"We are going to work in concert with the Department of Public Health," she said. "Let's have the public hearing."

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Faith, a golden retriever, with his owner, Amy Morin, who is one of the Workshop13 artists who will be painting pet portraits.

DOG PARK from page 1

her main passion. Morin carves her sculptures from tupelo wood, harvested from trees that grow in the waters of the Bayou. This wood is chosen because there is no grain and it is soft enough to carve with just a fingernail. Morin lets the wood "speak to her," telling her what animal it is to become; anything from a turtle to large bird of prey. Morin carved the hops sculpture at Tree House Brewing Company in Charlton.

Artist Althea Keaton received their bachelor of fine arts at SUNY Purchase in and a Master of Fine Arts at UMass Amherst. Keaton is an arts educator at Workshop13 and teaches the popular art program designed for homeschoolers. Keaton's artistic focus is primarily on people and cats, through drawing, printmaking and comics. Their "go to" when creating is works on paper with ink. Keaton painted the portrait of Frida Kahlo that is featured in the Main Street exhibit, "Ware It's At."

Other artists that will be joining Pecora, Morin and Keaton in completing the mural, will be Goudreau and Pam Spielberg, an artist from Barre.

Workshop13's Executive Director Marie Lauderdale said this mural is a fundraising effort for the 501c3 nonprofit organization, and they have already had a great response. The mural will be built out of the wall using ¾" pressure-treated plywood and painted using acrylic paint (similar to the "Ware It's At" installment). The mural is 72 feet long by 4 feet tall and should fit about 75 dog portraits to scale. So far they have received 30 portrait requests. Lauderdale said they will adjust the number of portraits as they go, and may even add additional panels to the mural. Dogs are not the only animal companions allowed on the mural, other small pets such as cats and hamsters. are welcome.

Workshop13's artists will paint each pet's portrait, using photos submitted by the owners. A donation of \$75 is requested per portrait. Portraits can be of pets that are living or deceased; inclusion in the mural being a fitting tribute to any pet. People can upload up to five photos of their pet using the QR code found on the "Calling All Dogs!" flyer, through Workshop13's website, www.workshop13.org and also through Facebook. For more information, or assistance with registering for a portrait, people may contact Marie Lauderdale at info@workshop13.org or call 413-277-6072. Workshop 13 will be accepting entries now until June 30. Artists will begin painting the mural in May.

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Ware Grange offers Sen. Gobi speaking about agricultural issues

WARE – State Sen. Anne Gobi will speak about current agricultural issues and legislation at a virtual meeting of the Ware Grange on Monday, April 19, at 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend. For the link to attend the meeting, please email waregrange@comcast.net.

SPORTS

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Ware falls in rare matchup with Tigers

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY— While Ware has been one of the best high school football teams in Division 8, South Hadley has been one of the top teams in Division 7 during the past several years.

In the first meeting between the two football teams in many years, the Tigers scored three rushing touchdowns and celebrated a 20-6 home victory over the Indians, last Friday night.

“This is a very big win for us,” said South Hadley head coach Scott Taylor. “Since coach (Mike) Fazio took over the Ware football program, they’ve been one of the top Division 8 teams and they’re a force to be reckoned with.”

The Tigers, who captured the 2019 Western Mass. Division 7 championship title, improved their record to 2-0. They began the Fall II football season with a 7-0 shutout win against Northampton and the defense nearly posted another shutout against Ware (1-1).

Please see **WARE FOOTBALL**, page 8



Rockeem Handfield tries to stutter step on a carry.



Jack Tweedie tries to block on the line.

Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphoto.com

Andrew Soltys attempts to return the ball.

Soccer alignments offered for new tourney format

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – Holyoke and Central will stand together as the only two schools from Western Massachusetts that will compete in Division 1 soccer under the new alignments that have been proposed.

This fall, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association will change to a state-wide tournament. In an attempt to equalize the competition, Massachusetts will move from four to five divisions in most major sports, such as soccer, basketball, and baseball and softball.

According to the alignments that have been proposed, Holyoke and Central are the only schools in the region that have enough enrollment to be part of Division 1.

Many current Division 1 schools in the region will now move down to Division 2.

Among the Division 2 teams in soccer will be Agawam, Chicopee, Chicopee Comprehensive, Minnechaug Regional, Amherst, and Ludlow. All of these teams have been playing in Division 1 for many years, and have competed in Division 1 tournaments at the regional and state level. Ludlow was a Division 1 state champion a couple of years ago.

Belchertown will be among the teams that will be featured in Division 3. This is not a change for those teams. They have been in Division 3 in recent years, though girls soccer has been playing Division 1 to improve its competition level. Belchertown won the boys Division 3 state champion-

ship in 2019.

South Hadley, which won a girls soccer Division 3 state title in 2019, will move to Division 4. Also included in Division 4 will be Mahar Regional.

Moving to the newly created Division 5 will be Palmer, Pathfinder, Monson, Granby, Ware, Quaboag, and North Brookfield.

In Central Mass., Tantasqua will be a part of Division 2, while Quabbin Regional will join Division 3.

The divisions the teams will be assigned will determine what state tournament that team will have an opportunity to be a part of. With the number of divisions increasing, there will be more opportunities for teams to qualify, though there could be a lot of excessive travel in the early rounds of the tournament depending on what part of the state a team comes from.

Teams will have an opportunity to appeal their divisional placement, whether it before enrollment or competition reasons.

What has yet to be determined is what a Western Massachusetts tournament may look like. While the MIAA will not sponsor a tournament going forward, the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference wants to sponsor a tournament. It is unknown how the competition will be aligned, but it could be difficult to place the teams according to division, with situations like having just Holyoke and Central in Division 1. The PVIAC had to put planning for sectional tournaments on hold due to the pandemic.

Ware youth softball signups ongoing

WARE – The Ware Youth Girls Softball League is seeking players for the 3rd and 4th grade team, the 5th and 6th grade team and the 7th to 9th grade team. This is a travel

league that teaches the girls how to play while having fun. Please find registration forms at the schools or contact Heather at 413-244-9796 by April 9.

Entry list growing as Icebreaker event nears

WATERBURY, Vt. — Connecticut’s Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park is just over three weeks away from opening the 2021 Northeast Auto Racing season with the annual Icebreaker. The headlining \$10,000-to-win Icebreaker 125 on Sunday, April 11 continues to draw buzz and big names as the entry list grows leading up to the event.

Nearly 30 Tour-type Modified teams have registered for the debut of the Outlaw Open Modified Series. Even more are expected by the time the first green flag falls for qualifying. The list includes former track and series champions, many multi-time winners, and rising stars looking to start the season with a bang.

To no one’s surprise, a huge contingent of racers from the “Modified Country” of Southern New England have entered. Former NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champions Doug Coby of Milford, CT; Bobby Santos III of Franklin, MA; and Ronnie Silk of Norwalk, CT are among the biggest names preparing for the season-opener.

Other touring series champions on the entry list are Chelmsford, MA’s Jon McKennedy; Moosup, CT’s Chris Pasteryak; and Woburn, MA’s Anthony Nocella. Although NASCAR Cup Series regular Ryan Preece has not officially entered the Icebreaker, he has publicly expressed his interest in competing.

Plenty of weekly Modified warriors are also ready for the



The Icebreaker 125 is just a few weeks away and the entry list is piling up.

long-distance challenge. They include Berlin, CT’s Keith Rocco, a seven-time Thompson Speedway champion, and Tolland, CT’s Ronnie Williams, a two-time SK Modified champion at Stafford Motor Speedway. With 125 green-flag laps on the card, many factors will play into who ultimately takes home the big check.

“I think you’re going to see a lot of different strategies in this type of race,” Williams said. “I think a lot of guys will be pushing hard in the early laps of the race. It’s the start of a new season, and a lot of guys haven’t raced yet. I’m expecting a strong run out there. The No. 25 with Gary Casella always runs well at Thompson.”

“You just have to play your cards right with all of the pit strategy and 125 laps that are all green flag laps,” Rocco added. “Fuel is probably going to play a role in it for this one, too. There are a

lot of aspects that are going to be part of trying to win the race. We always do really well in the open shows, from the SK Modifieds to the Tour Modifieds. Hopefully, we’ll come out of the box strong to start the season.”

However, the hunger for victory isn’t just limited to Connecticut and Massachusetts. Racers from six different Northeast states already entered the Icebreaker 125, giving the event a regional flavor that speaks to its appeal among the Modified ranks.

New Hampshire racers Andy Shaw (Center Conway) and Trevor Bleau (Troy) live in an area typically dominated by Late Model-type cars. However, they’re ready to make Modifieds the Granite State headliner for at least one day. Riverhead, NY’s Eric Goodale is one of several drivers who are expected to do

Please see **RACING**, page 8



Giovanni Perniciario attempts to navigate through the crowd of Northampton defenders.



Jordan Talbot escapes a tackle and tries to run the ball.



Colby Hill attempts a rush for the Pioneers.

Shorthanded Pioneers fall to Blue Devils

SOUTH HADLEY – Last Saturday afternoon, the Pioneers were only able to make it through a half in a 35-0 defeat against Northampton. The Blue Devils, which normally play three divisions ahead of Pathfinder, took advantage of a Pioneers team that had just 12 players. At halftime, the coaching staff made the decision not to continue playing in order to prevent injuries from happening.

Photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com



Austin Lagimoniere returns the ball toward the left side.

Senior

SPOTLIGHT

WARE JUNIOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Editor's Note: We are beginning a feature called Senior Spotlight to highlight Ware Junior Senior High School seniors as they are heading down the stretch to graduation. We take this opportunity to feature them and give them a chance to shine during a year that may have been different than what they hoped it would be. They have remained active school participants in the face of a lot of change and we would like to celebrate their hard work. Please join us in wishing them well as they finish out their senior year and their high school careers. We know they will tackle any and all challenges, and do great things. All seniors are offered the opportunity to participate and may contact their class advisor or Principal Gene Rich to take part. – Ware River News Editor Eileen Kennedy



Ware Junior Senior High School
Senior Lexie Orszulak

Lexie Orszulak

Sports: Girls varsity volleyball, girls varsity basketball
Extracurricular activities: Student Council, National Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, SHS, cashier
Student government: National Honor Society treasurer, Student Council treasurer, Western Mass Association of Student Councils delegate
Future plans: I plan to become a nurse practitioner after graduating college.
Hero/role model: My dad and grandfather.
Favorite subject: Math and science.
Favorite class: VHS
Favorite book: Hunger Games: Catching Fire
Favorite movie: Alice in Wonderland and Harry Potter
Favorite music: Taylor Swift, Khalid and Ed Sheeran.
What will you miss most about WJSHS? I will miss participating in Student Council the most.



Ware Junior Senior High School
Senior Aiden Patrissi

Aiden Patrissi

Extracurricular activities: Volunteer at Workshop13, making films for the community
Student government: Student Council, SHH, National Art Honor Society
Future plans: Go to college in Norway, get a film degree
Hero/role model: Myself
Favorite subject: English
Favorite class: Any with good friends – maybe Mrs. Grant's
Favorite book: The Great Gatsby
Favorite movie: It's a Wonderful Life
Favorite music: Norwegian pop, Taylor Swift
What will you miss the most about WJSHS? Seeing good friends and teachers



Ware Junior Senior High School
Senior Norah Ayers

Norah Ayers

Sports: Volleyball and softball
Extracurricular activities: National Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, National Science Honor Society, Student Council
Student government: Secretary of the National Honor Society
Future plans: Majoring in criminology at Keene State College
Hero/role model: My Aunt Debbie
Favorite subject: My favorite subject is science.
Favorite class: My favorite class of high school is tied between Art 1 and Ceramics, both with Mrs. Grant.
Favorite book: The iconic Deathwatch book that was read in seventh grade.
Favorite movie: Mamma Mia
Favorite music: Most country and some 70s and 80s artists.
What will you miss most about WJSHS? I will miss seeing my friends every day, and Winter Carnival week the most.

Ware Amvets
Post 2577
offers Michael
H. Deslauriers
Scholarship

WARE – The Ware Amvets Post 2577 will award the annual Michael H. Deslauriers Scholarship to a graduating senior residing in Ware regardless of the school district they attend.

Michael Deslauriers was a devoted musician sharing his talents with the town of Ware. He represented the town at the Quabbin Music Festival, Western District Festival and was a member of the Ware Community Band. A music graduate of Westfield State he continued to honor the veterans of the town by playing taps at their burial ceremony and also at all the patriotic and memorial events.

Students who wish to apply for this award of \$1,000, need only to send their school transcript and an essay stating their accomplishments and what their future plans are. Applications are available at school guidance offices and must be submitted by May 1.

Please mail applications to Ware Amvets Post 2577, C/O Richard Rucki, 8 First Ave., Ware, MA 01082.

WARE FOOTBALL
from page 7

The Indians, who lost to Lee High School in last year's Western Mass. Division 8 finals, defeated Belchertown, 37-8, in their season opener.

Ware made several costly mistakes against South Hadley.

"We just need to be able to execute against these higher Division teams in order to be successful," Fazio said. "My players are hurting right now because they came here really wanting to win this game. Playing a good football team like South Hadley will only help make us become a better team down the road."

The Indians played their first road game of the season without senior Keith Smith, who's an outstanding two-way starter. Smith suffered a right thumb injury against Belchertown and will be sidelined for the rest of the football season.

"Keith is one of our senior leaders," Fazio said. "He's a very good football player and not having him on the field is a huge loss for us."

The Tigers defense limited the Indians to only two rushing yards on the game's opening possession. The visiting team was forced to punt into a gusty wind.

The punt went less than ten yards before going out of bounds and the Tigers offense took over at the Indians 33-yard line.



Photo by David Henry
www.sweetdogphoto.com
Dillon Slattery goes for the quarterback keeper.

"It was a poor punt, but we made many more mistakes that hurt us during the course of the game," Fazio added. "They scored their first touchdown on a four downplay. If we stop them there, the punt wouldn't have been a factor."

A couple of runs by senior Kyle Johnson and junior Collin Mailhot moved the ball down to the 14.

Then on a fourth and four play, senior James Couture took a handoff from senior quarterback Shawm Mitchell and completed

the six-play scoring drive with a 14-yard touchdown run with 6:04 left in the first quarter. The extra point attempt was good by junior Brady Mendoza.

"It's always very important whenever your team takes the lead in a game," Taylor said. "Our offense did an outstanding job during that drive."

Led by senior quarterback Dillon Slattery, the Indians offense responded with a time-consuming drive.

Slattery kept the series alive by throwing a 10-yard screen pass to junior Andrew Soltys at midfield.

On the next play, Slattery gained ten more yards with a power run over sophomore center Cam McCormick.

Following two short runs by senior Rockeem Handfield and an incomplete pass, the Indians were forced to punt once again. This time the punt sailed into the end-zone.

With 8:10 remaining in the first half, Couture, who missed most of last season with an injury, scored his second rushing TD of the game on a two-yard scamper up the middle.

"It's nice to see James playing well this season because he missed a lot of time last year with an injury," Taylor said. "I'm also glad that our other three seniors have an opportunity to play football this year."

The other South Hadley senior is Austin Robinette.

Going into the wind, the Tigers

attempted a two-point conversion instead of an extra point.

Mailhot was tackled on the play by Ware senior Jack Tweedie before reaching the end zone.

The Tigers, who held a 13-0 halftime lead, scored another rushing touchdown on the opening possession of the second half.

Johnson capped off the nine-play scoring drive with a 15-yard run into the end zone untouched with 6:57 left in the third quarter. Mendoza added the extra point.

Holding a three-touchdown advantage at the start of the final quarter, the only question remaining for the home team was if the defense would be able to post another shutout.

With a little more than four minutes remaining on the scoreboard clock, South Hadley tried a fake punt play at their own 24-yard line. The play came up a little bit short giving the ball back to the Indians in very good field position.

"I put the defense in a bad spot by calling for a fake punt in that situation and I'll take the blame," Taylor said. "It still took them six or seven plays to go score. We do have a very strong defense this year."

Seven plays later, Slattery called his own number and dashed into the end zone on a three-yard run with 40 seconds left ending the Tigers shutout hopes.

The Indians, who only had three offensive series during the second half, missed the extra point attempt.

South Hadley sophomore Brayden Harper fell on an onside kick before Mitchell took a knee on the final play of the game.

RACING from page 7

double-duty with the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour event at Virginia's Martinsville Speedway. Goodale's fellow Long Islander Artie Peterson III is also representing the Empire State.

Anthony Sesely is making the trip to Thompson from Port Monmouth, NJ. Earl Paules has an even long drive from Palmerton, PA. Patrick Emerling has the current "long haul" award, though, with a 432-mile journey each way from Orchard Park, NY to drive Ted Anderson's #1CT.

The Icebreaker 125 is the first event in the new Outlaw Open Modified Series. A quartet of \$5,000-to-win Wednesday events are scheduled for June 16, July 7, August 11, and September 15. The season concludes with the return of the Thompson 300, a \$20,000-to-win event on October 9 and 10 as part of the annual World Series of Speedway Racing.

Drivers can still register for the Icebreaker 125. Outlaw Open Modified Series entry forms and rules are available at www.act-tour.com/outlaw-open-modifieds. General event information can be found at www.acttour.com/thompson-speedway.

Thompson Speedway opens its 82nd season with the annual Icebreaker on Saturday, April 10 and Sunday, April 11. A total of 10 divisions will com-

pete across two days of racing. Sunday's card features the \$10,000-to-win Icebreaker 125 for the Outlaw Open Modified Series. There's also a 40-lap ACT-type Late Model shootout plus the Limited Sportsman and SK Light Modifieds.

Saturday's six-division card is highlighted by the season-opening Thompson 75 for the PASS North Super Late Models. They're joined by the Sunoco Modifieds, NEMA LITES Midgits, EXIT Realty Pro Truck Challenge, Mini Stocks, and an 8-Cylinder Street Stock Open. An optional Test N' Tune practice day is slated for Friday, April 9 with all Icebreaker divisions welcome.

Adult general admission is \$30 for Saturday and \$35 for Sunday. Kids ages 12 and under are \$10 each day. Advance tickets are available at <https://happsnow.com/event/Thompson-Speedway-Motorsports-Park-YHPQ>. Grandstand attendance is limited to 50% of capacity per Connecticut COVID-19 guidelines. Pit passes will be sold at the track.

For general Thompson Speedway inquiries and camping reservations, call (860) 923-2280, email oval@thompson-speedway.com, or visit www.thompsonspeedway.com. You can follow Thompson Speedway on Facebook and Instagram at @ThompsonSpeedway or on Twitter at @ThompsonSpdwy.

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FORUM from page 1

on the Ware Junior Senior High School football field. Town Meeting voters have to approve the new cost estimate and allow for it to be borrowed and rescind the vote made several years ago for about \$6 million. They will also decide whether to create a Water Stabilization Fund and whether to direct the retail cannabis money to that fund.

“No question about it – build it,” Kusnierz said he would advise voters about the filtration plant. He said the town had kicked the can down the road regarding the plant and it would get more expensive. Kruckas said it had to get built, but it might be better to package the plant with work on the two water towers, which will have to be done soon as well. He said the \$13.3 million does not include hiring another operator for the plant or its upkeep.

“I think government should be about making peoples’ lives better and what could be more important than providing clean drinking water for people?” asked Whitney. He said by dedicating retail cannabis revenue, and possibly taxes from cannabis cultivators and payment in lieu of taxes from solar farms, the plant could be paid for, he said.

Economic development

McCarthy said she would like to see the town focus on outdoor recreation and if the town built the water filtration plant it might attract more businesses. She also wanted to see more family-friendly festivals in town as it was when she was growing up, she said.

Kusnierz said he would like to see the town make better use of Greenville Park, which he said was “an absolute masterpiece” and one of the nicest parks in the area. He also said finding ways to get residents and visitors outside in nature would make the town more attractive. “We need to invest in programs to get residents outside to interact with the environment around them,” he said.

Whitney wants to see Ware become a destination for out-of-towners. He pointed to Great Barrington’s downtown where there are four blocks of nothing but small businesses with no chain stores. “We could be the Great Barrington of mid-Massachusetts,” he said. Better access to the Quabbin Reservoir Park will also be a focus for him if he is re-elected, he said, and if he isn’t he will still pursue it with his wife, Laurie. He said security concerns have prevented access to much Quabbin, which was once more accessible.

Audits necessary

All four candidates also agreed that yearly independent audits, taking turns with different departments each year, are important to be sure town government is functioning properly and efficiently. “It’s beneficial and if some nonsense is occurring that extra money can be used by the town,” Kusnierz said, and those people responsible for the nonsense can be made accountable for their actions.

McCarthy agreed saying every person should be qualified for their job and have the means to do their job.

Kruckas said they are important because “every penny counts” in Ware. Whitney said the SelectBoard members are stewards of the town’s money. “Being good stewards is not just our right, it’s our duty,” he said, and the audits are part of that stewardship. An audit of the Fire Department occurred two years ago, and one was supposed to happen this year on Town Hall services but has not. Annual Town Meeting voters will be asked to fund \$12,000 to \$15,000 for the audit for fiscal 2022.

Mary Lane

Whitney said in light of Baystate Health announcing earlier this year that it is closing the Mary Lane campus, with emergency services to end in June, he is focused on finding out what the hospital build needs as the company has said it needs \$5 million worth of work. He said he also wants the town to determine if there are any other healthcare companies interested in it, and to pursue them if there are. He said the town, and state legislators, are pushing for Baystate to postpone closing its emergency services for a year.

“We’ve go to do something,” Kruckas said. Giving the community only a few months to plan for there being no emergency services in town was not giving it enough time, he said.

McCarthy said it should be determined how much is in the Gilbert Trust and it should follow Ware residents wherever they get care. She also said there should be a firm plan for the site if the building is pulled down by Baystate, and the site should be completely clean. She also suggested the brick building, which was the original hospital, be used as a community center.

Kusnierz said he doesn’t think the town should get involved in Baystate’s process other than to be sure the site is completely clean

if the building is demolished by Baystate.

Best candidates

All four got to tell viewers why they are the best candidates for the job.

Whitney narrowed it down to three things: experience, performance and dedication. “I’ve been a problem-solver since I was 22 and went into the service,” he said. There are a number of issues such as the hospital, the water filtration plant and other upcoming projects he wants to see through to completion, he said.

Kruckas said he also wanted to see several projects through. “I set out to do the things I set out to do and as a leader, I like to utilize the assets from each person on the board,” he said. Kruckas also said he tries to listen to people in town and likes getting them answers.

Both Kruckas and Whitney said the job involves a lot of time, not just a couple of meetings a month. There is a lot of reading to be done about issues, other meetings to attend and thinking about issues and figuring out what needs to be done, they said.

McCarthy said she wants to make Ware a place where she wants to bring her children up, just as she was brought up here. She said as a mother, there is no better role that prepares you to be a micromanager and she looks forward to becoming more involved in the town.

Kusnierz said it was his level-headedness that made him right for the position. “I know what it means to be a public servant. I also think that people can appreciate and see the enthusiasm and passion I have for this serving the town,” he said.

Ware Community Television has posted it on their website and will make it available on the television schedule.

Philip A. ‘Chipper’ Balicki

WARE – Philip ‘Chipper’ Balicki, 58, of Ware, passed away unexpectedly on March 24, 2021.

He leaves behind his wife; Cheryl Balicki, of almost 34 years, his son, Christopher Balicki, and wife, Nicole Balicki, his daughter, Sarah Balicki, and Todd Douillard.



Chipper was very excited for the arrival of his first grandchild in September. He also leaves behind his two brothers, Peter and Michael Balicki, his sister, Petra Longtine-Balicki. He will be missed by his friends, family and many nieces and nephews.

Chipper was the tow truck driver for Balicki Auto Body, he was an avid horseshoe player, his love for racing was known to everyone as he supported local racers, and of course, taking trips to the dirt track, Lebanon Valley. His passions for sports, especially UMass Amherst, gave him his job at

Death notices

Balicki, Philip A.
Died: March 24, 2021
Services are private

Noreau, Denis P.
Died: March 24, 2021
Services are private

the Mullins Center, where he was able to support sport fans and players in a different way. He had the privilege of working alongside his family his whole life. He was a great husband, father, uncle, cousin and friend to so many. He will be extremely missed by everyone, especially when you see that yellow truck driving by and he is not in it. His family will remember him for his genuine smile, distinctive laugh and big heart.

Chipper was predeceased by his father, Edward Balicki, and mother, Irene Balicki. Cebula Funeral home has been entrusted with his arrangements, which he wished to be private.

For more information and an online guest book, please visit www.cebulafuneralhome.com.

Denis P. Noreau

WARE – Denis P. Noreau, 77, of Ware, died on Wednesday, March 24, 2021, at Baystate Wing Hospital in Palmer following a long struggle with health issues.

He leaves his daughter, Danielle M. Souza, and her spouse, Chris, of Ware; his son, Paul D. Noreau, and his wife, Patricia, of Iowa, as well as two grandchildren, ShyAnne Demers and Payton Souza. He was born in Ware, son of the late Lionel and Yvonne Foucault and was a

life-long resident of the town.

Denis worked as Foreman at Corex in Springfield for 27 years.

In Denis’s younger years he enjoyed fast cars, cold beers and loose women. In his later years he enjoyed buying his scratch tickets at the courtesy desk at Big Y in Ware. He loved his trips to Foxwoods and to get his seafood dinners at



the local restaurants. He spent his free time doing crossword puzzles, watching his game shows and teaching his grandchildren how to play poker!

At his request, services will be held privately.

Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St., in Ware, is assisting his family with arrangements. An online guest book is available at charbonneaufh.com.

Tri-Parish Community Church news

NEW BRAINTREE – Oh how great to hear music by guest pianist Holly Bartelmann; and the voices of young children for the Tri-Parish Community Church Palm Sunday service at the New Braintree Congregational Church. Guest minister, Kathleen Fitzgibbons, gave two sermons – “Visiting Jerusalem” for the young children and “Jesus Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem” for the young at heart. Fitzgibbons will be with the Tri-Parish for two more weeks; Easter Sunday on April 4 and Sunday, April 11. The Easter service will also include guest organist, Deborah Kent; and will be at 10 a.m. in the New

Braintree Congregational Church. All are welcome with masks and social distancing.

The Tri-Parish is going ahead with plans for its annual plant, bake, tag and craft sale for June 5 and 6 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the Hardwood Town Common.

Contacts are Jennifer Pollard at 845-242-0529 for the plant sale; Alice May Lowell for the bake sale at 413-477-0947. Vendor spaces are available for \$30 for a 10-foot by 10-foot space. Applications may be obtained by contacting Marguerite Crevier at 413-477-6942. Also, volunteers are needed both days to help set-up and break-down booths.



In Loving Memory

Doris Elizabeth Supczak

August 10, 1918 - March 31, 1995

Time has not changed
our love for you.
We miss you!

Joseph and Doris Supczak's children

public notices

LEGAL NOTICE

The Ware Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 6:30PM** pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. 131 c40. The hearing will include consideration of a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) by Ana Estien for the construction of a single-family home and associated site improvements at Parcel 39-3 Doane Road, Ware, MA. Said hearing will be held in the Selectmen’s Meeting Room, Town Hall, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082. Remote Participation is Available. The meeting link can be found on the Ware Conservation Commission WEB site. To view application and related plans, contact the Conservation office at 413.967.9648 x113.

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 4, Section 13, a copy of this legal notice can be found on the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association’s (MNPAA) website: <http://masspublicnotices.org>. 04/01/2021

LEGAL NOTICE

MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Scott Gagnon and Linda K. McGuigan to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mort-

gagee, acting solely as a nominee for Fremont Investment & Loan, dated August 11, 2005 and recorded in Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 8395, Page 229 (the “Mortgage”), as affected by Judgment dated March 17, 2020, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 13743, Page 298 of which mortgage U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee relating to J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Corp. 2005-FRE1 Asset Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2005-FRE1 is the present holder by Assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Fremont Investment & Loan, its successors and assigns to U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee relating to J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Corp. 2005-FRE1 Asset Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2005-FRE1 dated September 19, 2013 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 11650, Page 330, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 37 Benham Avenue, Ware, MA 01082 will be sold at a Public Auction at **12:00 PM on April 22, 2021**, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said

mortgage, to wit:

A certain tract or parcel of land situate in Ware, more particularly described as lots numbered 109 and 110 in Prospect Park Tract, the same in size and location in accordance with a Map of Plan of said Tract now on file with Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 642, Pages 432 and 433, to which reference is made for a more particular description.

For our title to this above parcel see Quitclaim Deed from Steven Edward Wyzik and Celia Wyzik to Grantors under date of February 23, 1977 and recorded at Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 1937, Page 81.

Also a second certain tract of land in said Ware, more particularly described as lots numbered 138 and 139 in the Prospect Park Tract, the same in size and location in accordance with Map or Plan of said Tract now on file with the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 642, Pages 432 and 433, to which reference is made for a more particular description.

Joining in this conveyance is the said Celia Wyzik of said Ware, and thereby she releases her right to put a trailer or mobile home on parcel described immediately above, and any other rights reserved to her as Grantor under Quitclaim Deed of December 13, 1988

recorded at Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 3301, Page 262, which serves as title reference concerning the Grantors in regard to this second tract.

For mortgagor’s title see deed recorded with the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 8395, Page 227.

The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

Terms of the Sale: Cashier’s or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee’s attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA 01851 or such other time as may be designated by mortgag-

ee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee relating to J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Corp. 2005-FRE1 Asset Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2005-FRE1

Korde & Associates, P.C.
900 Chelmsford Street
Suite 3102
Lowell, MA 01851
(978) 256-1500
Gagnon, Scott and McGuigan, Linda,
13-012505
03/25, 04/01, 04/08/2021

Notice of Public Hearing Planning Board LEGAL NOTICE SP-2021-03

NOTICE is hereby given that the Ware Planning Board, acting as the Special Permit Granting Authority, will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, April 15 at 7:05 PM** on the application of Mar Delrosario for a Special Permit (SP-2021-03). Applicant is requesting approval for a home occupation to convert the basement of a single family home into a single chair barber-shop. The hearing will be held in the Selectmen’s Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, Town Hall, Ware, MA. Public is encouraged

to attend via digital platform **Zoom** Meetings. Go to <https://zoom.us/join> or join by phone. Phone Number: 929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 784-604-1861; Password: 01082.

SITE LOCATION: 130 West Main St, Ware, MA. Deed recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 12878, Page 83. Assessor’s Parcel 24-0-32. Zoned: Suburban Residential (SR).

A complete copy of the application can be found at the Town Clerk’s office by appointment and on the Planning & Community Development Department website under Recent Filings. Anyone interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.

WARE PLANNING BOARD
Richard Starodoj, Chairman
03/25, 04/01/2021

Public Hearing Notice Warren Planning Board Zoning Bylaw Amendment

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c. 40A, §5, the Warren Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **MONDAY APRIL 19, 2021 at 7:15 PM** Via Zoom, to consider a proposed Zoning Bylaw Amendment.

<http://join.zoom.us>
Meeting ID: 869 2706 4530
Passcode: 784772

The Board is proposing to amend:

Section 1.4 Definitions.
Section 3.2 Schedule of Use Regulations.

Section 5.1 Special Permits.

Section 5.2 Variances.
Section 12 Solar Energy.

Add Section 16 Wind Energy 16.1 Temporary Moratorium on the Construction of Wind Energy Facilities.

The proposed Zoning Bylaw amendment is available for review at the office of the Town Clerk or by contacting the Planning Office at 413-436-5701 ext. 260. The Board invites all interested parties to attend via zoom and offer comments on the proposed zoning amendment.

Derick R Veliz, Chairman
04/01, 04/08/2021

LEGAL NOTICE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS TOWN OF HARDWICK NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 138, section 12, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Hardwick will hold a public hearing on the application for Change of Manager pertaining to the Farmer’s Series Pouring License for the Lost Towns Brewing Company. Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held on this application on **Monday, April**

12, 2021 at 6:30 PM. The hearing will be held remotely/virtually. Instructions to attend this hearing will be posted on the April 12, 2021 Board of Selectmen’s Agenda located on www.townof-hardwick.com and www.mytowngovernment.org.

A copy of the application documents pertaining to this matter are available at the Town Administrators Office, Municipal Office Building, 307 Main Street, Gilbertville, Massachusetts. Any person wishing to comment may do so at the time of the Public Hearing. Written comments, addressed to the Board of Selectmen, will also be accepted if submitted prior to the date and time of the hearing.

Kenan P. Young, Chairman
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF HARDWICK
04/01/2021

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling).

Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands.

Thank you.

I public safety

Ware Police Log

Monday, March 22
5:48 a.m. Ambulance Request Old Poor Farm Road – Services Rendered
9:53 a.m. Accident, Vehicle West Street – Motor Vehicle Accident Over \$1,000
11:26 a.m. Ambulance Request Greenwich Road – Services Rendered
12:42 p.m. Ambulance Request Gilbertville Road – Services Rendered
3:24 p.m. Vandalism Gould Road – Services Rendered
4:04 p.m. Fraud North Street – Services Rendered
4:16 p.m. Vandalism Morse Avenue – Investigated, Report Filed
4:52 p.m. Ambulance Request Valley View – Referred to Other Agency
5:12 p.m. Fraud Park Avenue – Services Rendered

Tuesday, March 23
12:44 a.m. Ambulance Request Otis Avenue – Referred to Other Agency
10:26 a.m. Trespassing Complaint Monson Turnpike Road – Services Rendered
10:57 a.m. Trespassing Complaint Monson Turnpike Road – Referred to Other Agency
11:40 a.m. Fire, Report Main Street – Investigated, Report Filed
11:56 a.m. Fire, Report Main Street – Services Rendered
11:59 a.m. Fire, Report Main Street – Services Rendered
11:59 a.m. Ambulance Request Highland Village – Referred to Other Agency
12:05 p.m. Fire, Report Main Street – Services Rendered
12:58 p.m. Burglary/Breaking and Entering Main Street – Services Rendered

Wednesday, March 24
1:07 a.m. Ambulance Request Old Poor Farm Road – Referred to Other Agency
6:52 a.m. Hang-up, 911 Call Lee Road – Services Rendered
6:54 a.m. Ambulance Request Gilbertville Road – Referred to Other Agency
9:50 a.m. Ambulance Request West Street – Services Rendered
10:05 a.m. Fraud Upper North Street – Services Rendered
10:24 a.m. Accident, Vehicle Otis Avenue – Services Rendered
11:07 a.m. Motor Vehicle

Violation Church Street – Written Warning
11:24 a.m. Larceny, Theft Report North Street – Services Rendered
12:39 p.m. Alarm Burglar Sygiel Road – Services Rendered
3:44 p.m. Ambulance Request Valley View – Services Rendered
3:48 p.m. Ambulance Request South Street – Services Rendered
6:11 p.m. Ambulance Request Greenwich Road – Referred to Other Agency
6:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Violation West Warren Road – Citation Issued
6:44 p.m. Abandoned, 911 Call Otis Avenue – Services Rendered
6:56 p.m. Disturbance, 911 Call Otis Avenue – Services Rendered
6:56 p.m. Ambulance Request Laurel Drive – Services Rendered
9:10 p.m. Suspicious Activity/Person Barnes Street – Investigated, Report Filed
10:45 p.m. Ambulance Request Greenwich Road – Referred to Other Agency

Thursday, March 25
2:26 a.m. Abandoned, 911 Call Aspen Street – Area Searched Negative
5:09 a.m. Abandoned, 911 Call Otis Avenue – Services Rendered
7:21 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation West Street – Citation Issued
9:30 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation Belchertown Road – Criminal Complaint Issued
11:09 a.m. Ambulance Request Maple Avenue – Services Rendered
6:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Violation West Warren Road – Citation Issued
10:57 p.m. Ambulance Request Church Street – Services Rendered
11:13 p.m. Missing Person Pulaski Street – Services Rendered

Friday, March 26
3:21 a.m. Ambulance Request North Street – Referred to Other Agency
4:28 a.m. Ambulance Request Belchertown Road – Referred to Other Agency
6:35 a.m. Alarm Burglar West Street – Services Rendered
7:36 a.m. Ambulance Request

Maple Avenue – Services Rendered
7:44 a.m. Abandoned, 911 Call North Street – Services Rendered
10:14 a.m. Abandoned, 911 Call East Main Street – Services Rendered
10:37 a.m. Ambulance Request Maple Avenue – Services Rendered
1:23 p.m. Ambulance Request Otis Avenue – Services Rendered
2:12 p.m. Alarm Fire Dale Street – Services Rendered
3:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Violation Main Street – Citation Issued
7:29 p.m. Accident, Vehicle North Street – Motor Vehicle Accident Over \$1,000
8:40 a.m. Ambulance Request Maple Avenue – Referred to Other Agency
10:27 a.m. Ambulance Request Maple Avenue – Services Rendered
11:05 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation Church Street – Written Warning
3:41 p.m. Trash Dumping Complaint Belair Drive – Investigation Pending
6:09 p.m. Abandoned, 911 Call Belchertown Road – Services Rendered
8:02 p.m. Alarm Burglar West Street – Services Rendered

Sunday, March 28
5:12 a.m. Abandoned, 911 Call West Street – Services Rendered
11:03 a.m. Trash Dumping Complaint Bond Street – Investigation Pending
1:37 p.m. Fire, Report West Street – Investigated, Report Filed
2:10 p.m. Abandoned, 911 Call Main Street – Area Searched Negative
2:20 p.m. Ambulance Request Palmer Road – Services Rendered
3:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Violation West Main Street – Written Warning

Monday, March 29
5:30 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation South Street – Citation Issued
6:36 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation Main Street – Citation Issued
9:25 a.m. Larceny, Theft Report South Street – Services Rendered
10:04 a.m. Accident, Vehicle West Street – Services Rendered

Damage Church Lane – Report Taken

Wednesday, March 24
3:36 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Ridge Road – Transported to Hospital
9:30 p.m. 911 – Misdial Turkey Street – False Alarm

Thursday, March 25
12:47 a.m. Initiated – Safety Hazard Barre Road – Removed Hazard
7:04 a.m. 911 – Misdial Unknown – Dispatch Handled
11:10 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Charity Hill Road – Transported to Hospital
9:06 p.m. Threat North Street – Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Friday, March 26
9:42 a.m. 911 – Disturbance Church Lane – Transferred Call to C7
3:42 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Joslyn Road – Citation Issued
8:12 p.m. Initiated – Safety Hazard Main Street – Services Rendered

Saturday, March 27
12 a.m. Initiated – Safety Hazard Hardwick Road – Voice Message Left
3:01 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Road – Vehicle Towed
5:07 p.m. Other – Complaint Thresher Road – Officer Handled
6:13 p.m. Phone – Complaint Main Street – Spoken To

Sunday, March 28
12:02 a.m. 911 – Hang-up Call Church Street – Spoken To
12:13 a.m. Initiated – Complaint Hardwick Road – Spoken To
9:11 p.m. 911 – Safety Hazard Shore Road – Services Rendered

Warren Police Log

Sunday, March 21
9:02 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle South Street – Criminal Complaint
Summons: Jonathan A. Snow, 37, West Warren
Number Plate Violation Attached Plates
10:55 a.m. Overdose/Poisoning Reynolds Road – Transported to Hospital
10:56 a.m. Welfare Check Town Farm Drive – Report Filed

Monday, March 22
6:39 a.m. Falls Maple Street – Transported to Hospital
3:54 p.m. Sick/Unknown Hawkes Road – Ambulance Signed Refusal
4:25 p.m. ATV Collision/Fire Coy Hill Road – Transported to Hospital
8:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued
8:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning

Tuesday, March 23
7:23 a.m. Illegal Dumping Main Street – Negative Contact

Wednesday, March 24
4:55 p.m. Fraud/Forgery Spring Street – Information Taken
5:08 p.m. Gunshots Bacon Street – Report Filed

Thursday, March 25
11:35 a.m. Harassment Prospect Street – Information Given
2:20 p.m. Fraud/Forgery Chapel Street – Officer Spoke to Party
2:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Southbridge Road – Citation Issued
4:30 p.m. Falls Keys Road – Transported to Hospital
8:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Criminal Complaint
Summons: Cheryl A. Butler, 56, Warren
Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle; Headlight D-Side

Friday, March 26
11:43 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning
6:44 p.m. Power Lines/Wires Down Town Farm Road – Fire Extinguished
8:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning
9:05 p.m. Breathing Difficulty Washington Street – No Transport Required

Saturday, March 27
1 a.m. Larceny/Theft North Street – Officer Spoke to Party
10:09 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Coy Hill Road – Criminal Complaint
Summons: Lawrence J. Dymek, 63, West Warren

Editor’s Note: People in this country are presumed to be innocent until found guilty in a court of law. Police provide us with the information you read on this page as public record information. If you or any suspect listed here is found not guilty or has charges dropped or reduced, we will gladly print that information as a follow-up upon being presented with documented proof of the court’s final disposition.

License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With; Inspection/ Sticker, No
11:20 a.m. Suspicious Activity Sarty Road – Arrest(s) Made
Arrest: Matthew Aiken, 38, Worcester
Motor Vehicle, Larceny of; Number Plate, Take; Breaking and Entering for Misdemeanor; Destruction of Property +\$1,200, Wanton c266 §127; Vandalism
9:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued

Sunday, March 28
3:25 a.m. Sick/Unknown Crescent Street – Transported to Hospital

New Braintree Police Log

During the weeks of March 15-29, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 56 building/property checks, 32 directed/area patrols, 19 radar assignments, 12 traffic controls, three emergency 911 calls, two animal calls, two complaints, six motor vehicle stops and one scam in the town of New Braintree.

Thursday, March 18
9:04 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Barr Road – Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, March 23
9:16 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Hardwick Road – Transported to Hospital
12:05 p.m. 911 – Fire, Brush Moore Road – Extinguished
12:23 p.m. Radio – Fire, Other Oakham Road – Unfounded
7:49 p.m. Phone – Complaint

Cemetery Road – Negative Contact

Friday, March 26
3:04 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Old Turnpike Road – Citation Issued
3:39 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Ravine Road – Citation Issued

Saturday, March 27
4:55 p.m. Phone – Complaint Millstone Road – Services Rendered

Hardwick Police Log

During the weeks of March 15-29, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 136 building/property checks, 38 directed/area patrols, 18 radar assignments, 22 traffic controls, 21 emergency 911 calls, 21 motor vehicle stops, five safety hazard, one forgery/fraud, one stolen motor vehicle, eight complaints, one vandalism, one threat, two animal calls, one trespass and one motor vehicle accident in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, March 15
4:40 p.m. Phone – 911 Misdial Prospect Street – Spoken TO
6:09 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Bridge Street – Transported to Hospital
11:44 p.m. Phone – Complaint Hardwick Road – Spoken To

Tuesday, March 16
1:46 a.m. 911 – Misdial High Street – Spoken To
3:23 p.m. 911 – Complaint North Street – Services Rendered

Wednesday, March 17
7:28 a.m. Phone – Suspicious Activity Lyman Road – Transferred Call to C7
7:32 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Turkey Street – Transported to Hospital
10:40 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Bridge Street – Transported to Hospital
4:27 p.m. 911 – Assist Citizen Barre Road – Services Rendered
8:19 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Church Lane – Transported to Hospital

Thursday, March 18
11:09 a.m. Phone – Forgery/Fraud Church Lane – Spoken To
2:52 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency School Street – Transported to Hospital
3:36 p.m. Phone – Welfare Check Bridge Street – Transported to Hospital

Friday, March 19
8:55 a.m. 911 – State Inspections Old Petersham Road – Services Rendered
9:11 a.m. Phone – Safety Hazard Main Street – Dispatch Handled
3:46 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Road – Written Warning
3:57 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Road – Citation Issued
4:33 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Road – Citation Issued

Saturday, March 20
2:14 p.m. Phone – Trespass Turkey Street – Gone on Arrival
3:02 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Mill Road – Written Warning
4:03 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Road – Citation Issued

Sunday, March 21
11:10 a.m. Phone – Fire Alarm Barre Road – Services Rendered
1 p.m. Cellular – Vandalism Barre Road – Report Taken
3:47 p.m. 911 – Misdial Hardwick Road – Services Rendered
6:43 p.m. Phone – Stolen Motor Vehicle Greenwich Road – Report Taken
8:54 p.m. Phone – Carbon Monoxide Alarm Greenwich Road – Services Rendered

Monday, March 22
12:10 p.m. 911 – Misdial Petersham Road – Officer Handled
4:52 p.m. Initiated – Complaint Turkey Street – Spoken To

Tuesday, March 23
6:50 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Barre Road – Services Rendered
4:59 p.m. Phone – Property



Hardwick Winery wraps up maple syrup season

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Winery offered maple-enhanced dining each Saturday and Sunday in March to a sold-out crowd. This past weekend wrapped up the end of maple syrup season with plenty of sunshine on Saturday



Blacksmith Joe Lambert, of Iron Artistry of Athol, demonstrates how to make a rose out of metal.



Jesse the dog monitors the hayrides while his owner drives the tractor at the Hardwick Winery.



Diana Nydam displays some of the treats available from Brookfield Orchard.



Spring chicks enjoyed the warm sunshine.

Turley Publications staff photos by Paula Ouimette

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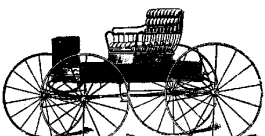
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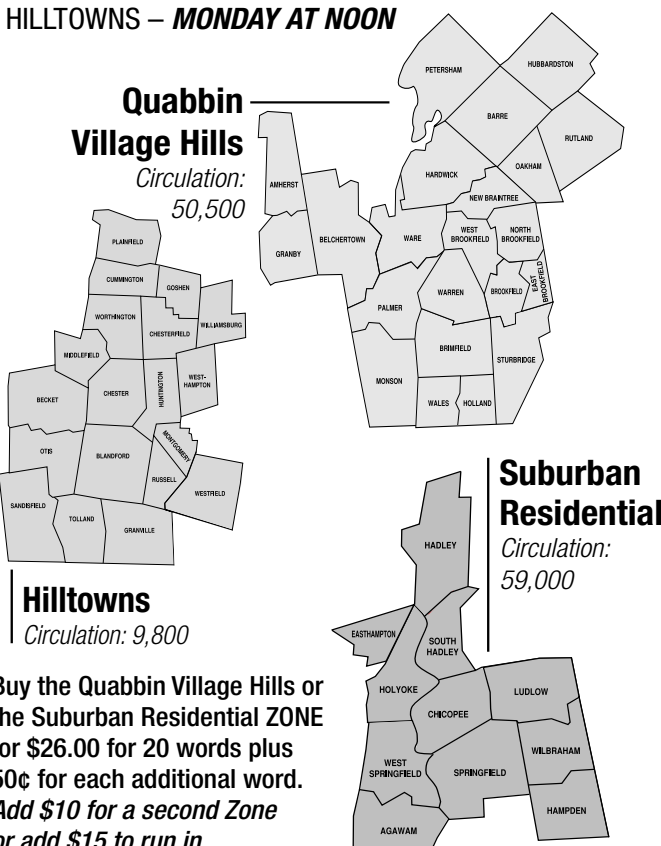
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